



Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Conference Update

January, 2004

Proceedings

The first draft of the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Conference Proceedings is near completion. The draft document will shortly be circulated to the Conference Interim Steering Committee for review. Following Committee approval, the proceedings will be translated for publication both in Spanish and English, then distributed to country representatives, Conference participants, interested stakeholders, and decision-makers in Western Hemisphere wildlife conservation. Please anticipate receiving your copy in the upcoming months. We are still accepting logos from all participants and country representatives for inclusion in the Proceedings. If you have not already, please send your logo in JPG or TIF format to Valencia Bell (Valencia_bell@fws.gov).

Matrix of Tools

The matrix of tools available for addressing needs prioritized by country representatives at the Conference is still in its early stages. At this time, approximately twenty groups have submitted information on programs and materials they have available to offer countries of the hemisphere to address the twenty-one highest priorities identified at the Conference. Since the matrix will continue to evolve as more tools become available, a draft form will be printed and circulated along with the published proceedings. Additionally, the matrix will be available on the

Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Conference website in both Spanish and English, for persons seeking wildlife conservation assistance, or for groups offering relevant programs and materials. For information on how to submit your organization's programs and tools for listing in the matrix, please contact Sara Bushey (bushey@nwf.org).

Website

Key information regarding the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Conference and follow-up activities will be posted on a Conference website. This communications tool will provide opportunity for sharing hemisphere-wide various conservation resources, discussions, and opportunities that arise from the Conference, as well as timely information about future meetings and happenings. The website is currently under construction, and expected to go live on the Internet in spring of 2004.

Funding

Opportunities for funding a follow-up meeting to the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Conference plus a meeting of the Interim Steering Committee are currently being sought. Additionally, funding is being sought for creating programs to address gaps identified in the tool matrix. Further suggestions for funding sources are welcome.

Interim Steering Committee

The Interim Steering Committee has not yet met as a group, however, plans are being considered for convening the first meeting of this committee in the fall of 2004.

Name for Initiative

As the follow-up actions from the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Conference continue, and the Interim Steering Committee becomes active, it will be necessary to find an appropriate name for the initiative that demonstrates the intention of the country representatives and Conference participants to continue the Conference momentum beyond the single event in Chile. Suggestions for names are welcome, and will be considered by the Interim Steering Committee at its first meeting.

If you have any questions regarding these, or other activities related to the Conference, please contact Jeff Flocken (jeff_flocken@fws.gov).

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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Winter 2004

